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S.B. 1276, S.D.1 RELATING TO MOTOR CARRIER VHICLE SAFETY INSPECTIONS.

Senate Committee on Way and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports S.B 1276, S.D.1.

This bill expands the authority of the Director of Transportation over motor carrier vehicle inspections.

There is a need to upgrade the methods and procedures of the motor carrier vehicle safety inspection program such as transitioning the current paper-based inspection program to an electronic program.

The Motor Carrier Safety Staff is charged with the oversight of the DOT safety inspection of motor carrier vehicles program. The oversight responsibility for this program is a portion of the overall responsibilities of the motor carrier safety staff operations. Because the DOT safety inspection for motor carrier vehicles program is a paper-based program, officers must conduct audits of this program in the field, which is time consuming. Records indicate that on Oahu during the calendar years of 2016 to 2108, a total of 36 violations that include such things as; improper completion of DOT inspection certificates, non-certified inspector conducting inspections, inspections conducted without receiving proper documents, inspections conducted at non-certified locations, etc.

Transitioning to an electronic program from a paper-based program would eliminate such violations from occurring, thus resulting in proper inspections being conducted that enhances safer motor carrier vehicles using Hawaii's roads.

Amending administrative rules is a more efficient means of making changes and still allows for input from the public to the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.